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# Four new radio services for Atherton/Mareeba

**T**he ABA has made channels available for four new radio services in the radio market of Atherton/Mareeba, Far North Queensland.

Licences will be made available for the allocation for one new commercial radio service in Atherton/Mareeba, one new community radio service in Mareeba and two new open narrowcasting services in Atherton/Mareeba.

'The decision to make these new services available to the people in the Atherton/Mareeba radio market comes as a result of the ABA's public planning process,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'If all these new licences are taken up, it will lead to a significant increase in the number and diversity of radio services available to listeners in the region.'

The licensee of the existing commercial radio service 4AM is eligible to apply for the new commercial radio licence, and has a period of 60 days to do so. If the licensee of 4AM does not apply for the licence, the licence will be made available via a price-based allocation system.

The ABA's decisions are contained in its final licence area plan for radio in the Atherton/Mareeba region. The ABA can

now move to allocate licences for the new services it has decided to make available.

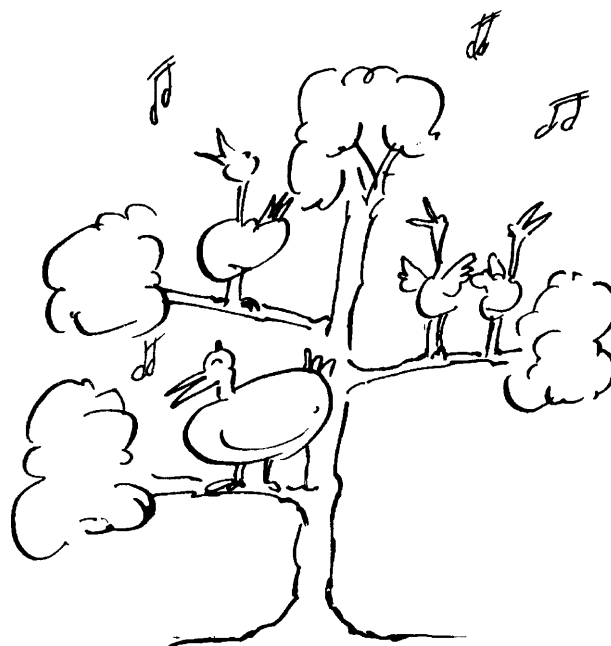
The licences for the open narrowcasting services will be allocated by auction. The licence for the community radio service will be allocated via a merit-based process.

## National radio

The licence area plan reserves spectrum capacity for existing national radio services. There is one existing national radio service at Atherton and Herberton and two existing national services at each of Dimbulah and Mount Molloy and two planned national radio services in Ravenshoe.

## Commercial radio

There is one new commercial radio licence planned for Atherton/Mareeba. The ABA has decided to reduce the licence area of the existing 4AM commercial radio service, which makes the licensee of this service eligible to apply for the second licence under section 39 of the Broadcasting Services Act. The 4AM licensee has 60 days from determination of the licence area plan to do so. If the 4AM licensee does not apply for the licence, it will be made available to other investors via a price-based allocation system.



## Community radio

The ABA has made one community radio licence available in Mareeba. There is an aspirant community group in the region, Living Waters. The group has not yet conducted test transmissions but has applied to do so.

## Open narrowcasting radio

Two channels will be made available for open narrowcasting radio services at Atherton. The services are planned to operate on FM 88.7 MHz and FM 99.1 MHz with a maximum effective radiated power of 2 kW.

Interest in providing open narrowcasting services in the Atherton region has been expressed by TAB Queensland,

Coastal Broadcasters and Mr J Roberts. Other interested parties may emerge at the licence allocation stage.

## Planning for television

Planning for television services throughout regional Queensland is currently scheduled to commence late next year.

### For copies of the licence area plan:

The radio licence area plan for Atherton/Mareeba is available for viewing at the Atherton Shire Library and the Mareeba Shire Library.

Copies can be obtained from the ABA by calling Freecall 1800 810 241.